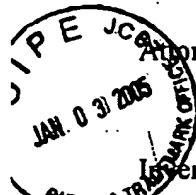


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Attorney Docket No.: 100809-00228 (SCEI 16.077A)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor : Akio OHBA
Serial No. : 10/723,874
Filed : November 26, 2003
Title : **IMAGE PROCESSING DEVICE AND METHOD, AND
DISTRIBUTION MEDIUM**
Examiner : --
Group Art Unit : --

January 3, 2005

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

SIR:

Prior to any Office Action on the merits, please amend the subject application as follows:

Any fee due as a result of this paper, not
covered by an enclosed check, may be
charged on Deposit Acct. No. 50-1290.

Filed by Express Mail
Receipt No. ED479698278C1S

On Jan - 03 - 05

By Patricia Muir

R E M A R K S

Claims 14 - 16 are pending. Applicant cancels claims 14 - 16 without prejudice or disclaimer and adds new claims 17 - 50. No new matter is added. Support for new claims 17 - 50 may be found, for example in Applicant's FIGs. 2 - 6 and in Applicant's specification at page 5, line 11 through page 9, line 14.

Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

We respectfully request that all fees relating to this application be charged to Deposit Acct. No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas J. Bean
Reg. No. 44,5287

CUSTOMER NUMBER 026304

PHONE: (212) 940-8800/FAX: (212) 940-8776
Docket No.: 100809-00228 (SCEI 16.077A)
TJB: pm